GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2390
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2007
COLLUSION AMONG GSM OPERATORS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are allegations of a collusion among the GSM operators in the country over the recent increase in both voice tariff and SMS rates;

(b) if so, whether there are allegations that STD tariffs had been increased despite the reduction in access deficit levy recently;

(c) if so, whether the GSM operators had failed to reduce roaming rates recently even as BSNL, MTNL and CDMA operators did so;

(d) if so, whether TRAI has been asked to probe these allegations and take punitive regulatory action against GSM operators; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b) In the recent past, three GSM mobile operators increased call charges and SMS charges in several service areas. TRAI has received representation from consumer organizations alleging collusion among GSM operators. It was also alleged that STD tariffs had been increased despite the reduction in Access Deficit Charges (ADC).

(c) TRAI had notified revised ceiling tariff for National roaming service to be effective from 15.2.2007. The revised tariffs were lower to the extent of 22% to 56% compared with the then prevailing market rates. This is in addition to the savings to the customers on account of abolition of rentals. As per records available with TRAI all the GSM operators have reduced the roaming tariff effective from 15.2.2007.

(d) & (e) Do not arise in view of (a) to (c) above.